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introduce more particularly to your notice the institution over whose interests we have been chosen to preside. We have already had the honour of laying before your Grace some information respecting it; and we trust that a closer examination will interest your Grace more strongly in its favour.

The progress of society has ever kept pace with the growth and decay of literature. Its downfall was barbarism; its revival has been civilization. By it Europe has acquired her superiority in the world; and to it, Britain is indebted for its present high rank among the nations of Europe. To improve the state of learning is, therefore, to add a link to the bond of human felicity; and every new establishment for extending its influence is an additional column to confirm the stability of our national prosperity and fame. Its influence extends from nations to individuals; wherever it is cultivated, individuals, as well as nations, reap a harvest of perpetual celebrity. Its seed contains the germ of national greatness, and the memory of its patrons is embalmed in its records.

The institution, in whose favour we have now the honour of addressing you, though yet in its infancy, will be found to possess strong claims to the regard of the friends of learning. Founded in a country which has a prescriptive right to their veneration, and at a time when, through the improved state of literature, it may rise at once to maturity, unrestrained by the prejudices and errors it might have contracted in a more unenlightened era, it demands less exertion to raise it to pre-eminence and respectability: though faint and obscure at present, when compared with those great lights of science which have so long shed an intellectual day on these nations, it may yet warm and enrich the soil whence it sprung; in its meridian splendour, it may reflect a beam to gild the name of those who have welcomed its dawn. With those feelings it has been commenced; with those feelings we have brought it so far through the difficulties and discouragements necessarily attending a new experiment, and we now present it to your Grace's notice, in the hope, that from your knowledge of its principles and objects at present, it may look up to you as an advocate and patron, when its claims to public support shall be again investigated; and we trust, that, sanctioned as it has been since its commence-

ment by the approbation of every friend to learning, who has duly weighed its merits, it will rise to such a height of literary eminence, that its establishment will be considered as not the least important circumstance occurring during your Grace's administration.

DONEGALL, *President.*

To which his Grace was pleased to return the following answer:—

*My Lord and Gentlemen,*

It gives me great satisfaction to perceive, that the liberality and good sense of the inhabitants of Belfast, have induced them to establish a Seminary for Education, upon a scale proportioned to the wealth, prosperity, and population of this part of the North of Ireland; and, I trust, under the auspices of the highly respectable characters who have been selected by the legislature, for the government of the Belfast Academical Institution, an extended and improved course of education may be established, honourable to you, and calculated to promote the best interests of society.

*At a numerous and respectable Meeting of the Catholics of the County of Meath, held August, 29th, 1811, at the Court-house, Navan,*  
The Right Hon. the Earl of FINGALL in the Chair;

*The following Resolutions, proposed by the Hon. THOMAS BARNEWALL, and seconded by ELIAS CORBALLY, Esq. were unanimously agreed to:—*

*Resolved,* That the Catholics of Ireland have, for a long series of years, borne with calm and patient endurance, a state of degradation in their native land, which might well have excused a warmer tone of complaint and indignation, than as a body they have ever yet manifested.

That in their endeavours to raise themselves from this degraded state, to an equal rank with their more favoured countrymen, they have been animated by the conviction, that the redress they seek is not more desirable as an act of justice to them, than as conducive to the best interests of the whole community, as necessary to the advancement of its social happiness, the consolidation of its strength and the establishment of its security.

That, whilst they are impressed with this conviction, from the obvious tendency of this redress, to extinguish jealousies

and discontents, and promote general satisfaction and concord, they are further fortified in it by the declared sentiments of the wisest statesmen, and by the liberal support which the Catholic cause has received, and is receiving, from a great, and daily increasing portion of their protestant countrymen.

That in the measures that have been adopted, and the deliberations that have been held, to give weight and efficacy to their claims, they have had no secret, sinister, unlawful object in view, but have faithfully confined themselves to their declared purpose, the pursuits of constitutional rights, by constitutional means; and, however they may be misrepresented by those who would malignantly scrutinize all that has been said and done by Catholics, they can yet boldly affirm, that the true character of their proceedings has been irreproachable, and not less temperate and cautious, than persevering and firm.

That we, therefore, could not see, without surprise and indignation, the whole body of the Irish Catholics threatened with the penalties of an ambiguous statute, and harrassing proceedings commenced against the persons of some of them—Proceedings, in the opinion of many well informed men, absolutely illegal, but certainly uncalled for, rash, and impolitic.

That adhering with unalterable determination to our claims, to the full enjoyment of equal privileges, we will continue to advance those claims by the most efficacious means that the law permits to us, and do therefore concur in the opinion already expressed at Catholic meetings in various parts of the kingdom, that petitions be presented to the legislature in the course of the next session, for the repeal of all the restrictive laws which still affect our body.

That for the purpose of preparing such petitions on our behalf, a committee be appointed, consisting of the following noblemen and gentlemen:—

The Right. Hon. the Earl of Fingall; Right Hon. Viscount Gormanstown; Right Hon. Viscount Netterville; Right Hon. Lord Trimblestown; Right Hon. Lord Killeen; Hon. Thomas Barnewall; James Nangle, of Kildalky, esq.; Pierce O'Brien Butler, of Dunboyne-castle, esq.; James Caddell, of Harbournstown, esq.; Elias Corbally, of Brookstown, esq.; Jos. Barnewall, of Kells, esq.; John Johnson, of the Wells, esq.; John M. Grainger, of

Cossestown, esq.; Christopher Cusack of Raholdrin, esq.; C. Drake, of Trim esq.

And that in order to ensure that coincidence of views, and union of efforts, so essential to the success of our cause, they be directed to confer and co-operate with such persons as may be appointed for the like purpose, at the several meetings of Catholics throughout the country, so as to constitute for this single, definitive, and strictly legal object, a general committee, of the Catholics of Ireland.

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting are hereby offered to our worthy representatives, Sir Marcus Somerville, Bart. (present at the meeting), and Thomas Bligh, esq. for the uniform support given by them to our just claims in the Imperial parliament.

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting are due to the Marquis of Headfort, Marquis of Lansdowne, Earl of Carnley, Earl Cunningham, and Earl of Essex, and the other noble Lords of this county, who also have advocated our cause in parliament.

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting are gratefully presented to those gentlemen, our Protestant countrymen, who have this day attended our meeting, and particularly to John Pratt Winter, esq. (our steady friend), Thomas Barnes and Richard Barrett, esqrs. for those sentiments so eloquently expressed this day in support of our just claims.

FINGALL, *Chairman.*

Lord Fingall having quitted the chair, and Elias Corbally, esq. being called thereto, it was

Resolved, (on the motion of the Hon. Thos. Barnewell), That the cordial thanks, and grateful feelings of the Catholics of this county, be now presented to the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Fingall, as chairman of this meeting; as also for the manly persevering, yet temperate conduct so uniformly displayed by him in pursuit of our just claims; and that his lordship be respectfully requested to accept this proud tribute of his countrymen's approbation.

Resolved, That this meeting do now adjourn.

ELIAS CORBALLY.  
J. A. O'REILLY, *Sec.*

#### ARMAGH MEETING.

*At a Meeting of the Catholics of the County Armagh, held at the City of Armagh, pur-*